

FACT SHEET

CALIFORNIA TRAINING BENEFITS PROGRAM

The California Training Benefits (CTB) Program allows eligible California Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants who lack competitive job skills to receive their UI benefits while attending an approved training/retraining program. Claims for UI benefits are filed by telephone with the California Employment Development Department (EDD).

Background

Individuals in approved CTB training/retraining need not:

- Look for work.
- Be available for work.
- Accept suitable work.
- Be disqualified for leaving work if working prevents them from completing training/retraining approved prior to leaving their most recent employment.

Benefits Available

- Under the CTB program, the traditional role of UI changes, from that of temporary financial support while the claimant looks for work, to one of assisting the claimant in training/retraining in a demand occupation to enable a return to full employment.
- Training Extension (TE) claims provide additional UI benefits. An extension of CTB training benefits may be available beyond the regular UI claim while an individual is in approved training. To be eligible for extended training benefits, an individual must ask for information about CTB or apply for CTB training approval with EDD no later than receiving the 16th week of regular UI benefits. If the UI claim award is 16 weeks or less, the individual must ask for CTB training approval before receiving the last UI benefit check.
- When in effect, federal extended benefits replace the training extension benefits for CTB participants.

Eligibility Criteria

To participate in the CTB program, an individual must be eligible for California UI benefits and be enrolled in an approved training/retraining program. An approved training/retraining program is offered by either:

- Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funded programs.
- Employment Training Panel (ETP) funded programs.
- Trade Readjustment Act (TRA) federally funded programs (North American Free Trade Agreement/Trade Adjustment Assistance).
- California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS) training contracts.

If an individual is approved for training/retraining by one of the above funded training providers, then the individual is potentially eligible for the CTB program.

Other Training

Individuals who secure training on their own behalf or who are not approved for training by WIA, ETP, TRA, or CalWORKS must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be eligible for California UI benefits;
AND
- Be unemployed because of plant closure or substantial reduction in employment at the applicant's most recent workplace;
OR
- Be unemployed due to technological improvements, the effects of automation and relocation in the economy;
OR
- Be unemployed and unable to utilize occupational skills as a result of mental or physical disability;
OR
- Be unemployed four or more continuous weeks and lack competitive skills to compete in the job market;
AND
- Apply and enroll for training in an occupation that is in demand in the individual's local labor market or be willing to relocate within California;
AND
- Complete a training course within one year, including scheduled breaks and vacation breaks;
AND
- Attend training full-time as defined by the school and EDD, but not primarily to obtain a degree;
AND
- The training course must be full-time (EDD considers full-time to be not less than 20 hours or 12 units per semester or quarter);

AND

- Participate in the program only if there has been three years or more since the beginning date of prior CTB approval.

Living Outside of California but Within the United States

If you live in a state other than California and have a valid California UI claim, contact EDD for eligibility criteria.

Tuition, Books, and Fees

CTB participants are not reimbursed costs by EDD for tuition, books, or other training-related expenses.

Approval Authority for CTB

An EDD adjudication interviewer determines the applicant's eligibility for the CTB program and TE claims based upon legislation contained in Article 1.5 of the California Unemployment Insurance Code, Sections 1269 and 1271, respectively.

For More Information

For further information or to apply for the CTB program, please contact EDD at:

- English 1-800-300-5616
- Spanish 1-800-326-8937
- Cantonese 1-800-547-3506
- Vietnamese 1-800-547-2058
- Outside of California 1-800-250-3913
- TTY (non-voice) 1-800-815-9387

For more information on other EDD programs and services, visit our Web site at www.edd.ca.gov.